

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /064 W

----- 116561

R 050653Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 597

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, MU

SUBJECT: OMAN'S EXPANDING DIPLOMATIC TIES

1. ON NOVEMBER 2, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER YUSUF AL-ALAWI TOLD EMBOFF AND VISITING DESK OFFICER THAT 12 AMBASSADORS WILL PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO SULTAN OVER PERIOD OF NEXT FEW DAYS. FIRST THREE WILL DO SO ON NOV. 6, WITH OTHERS TO FOLLOW AT RATE OF ABOUT THREE PER DAY. SOME OF LAST TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS MAY STAY FOR OMANI NATIONAL DAY (NOV. 18), BUT BECAUSE OF LACK OF HOTEL SPACE, OTHERS PROBABLY WILL DEPART EARLIER.

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NONE OF NEW AMBASSADORS WILL BE RESIDENT IN OMAN. THIS PROCESS

WILL SWELL NUMBER OF ACCREDITED FOREIGN AMBASSADORS
TO 27, WITH 12 RESIDENT IN OMAN.

2. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES, SOME OF COUNTRIES
INVOLVED WILL BE ROMANIA (AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN TEHRAN),
FRG, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, AND
SWEDEN. AL-ALAWI STATED THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF ROMANIA, ALL
WILL BE "ARAB OR FRIENDLY" STATES. OF GROUP, ONLY ITALY
AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE PREVIOUSLY HAD DIPLOMATIC
ACCREDITATION IN OMAN.

3. ANOTHER FONMIN SOURCE EARLIER STATED THAT, FROM NOW ON,
OMAN WILL PREFER THAT NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADORS BE FROM
NEARBY COUNTRIES OTHER THAN KUWAIT--REFLECTING CONTINUING
ANIMUS BETWEEN OMAN GOVT AND GOK.

4. ASKED ABOUT RELATIONS WITH LEBANON, AL-ALIYI REMARKED
DISPARAGINGLY THAT OMAN DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH SOPHISTICATED
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTRACT LEBANESE, ALTHOUGH
THERE IS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO RECIPROCATATE FOR OMANI
AMBASSADOR NOW RESIDENT IN BEIRUT.

5. AL-ALAWI REPORTED THAT OMAN PLANS TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT
EMBASSY IN TOKYO, AND IS CONSIDERING TIES WITH MOSLEM
NATIONS IN SE ASIA, PROBABLY INDONESIA IN FIRST INSTANCE.
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